

(Mrs. GILLIBRAND) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 1017 intended to be proposed to H.R. 2810, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2018 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

## AMENDMENT NO. 1027

At the request of Mr. STRANGE, the name of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. BENNET) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 1027 intended to be proposed to H.R. 2810, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2018 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

## AMENDMENT NO. 1032

At the request of Mr. ISAKSON, the name of the Senator from Texas (Mr. CORNYN) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 1032 intended to be proposed to H.R. 2810, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2018 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

## AMENDMENT NO. 1033

At the request of Mr. PERDUE, the names of the Senator from Maryland (Mr. VAN HOLLEN), the Senator from Maryland (Mr. CARDIN), the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. WICKER) and the Senator from Texas (Mr. CORNYN) were added as cosponsors of amendment No. 1033 intended to be proposed to H.R. 2810, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2018 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

## AMENDMENT NO. 1056

At the request of Mr. GARDNER, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 1056 intended to be proposed to H.R. 2810, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2018 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

## STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. KAINE (for himself, Mrs. CAPITO, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. CASEY, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, and Mr. WARNER):

S. 1814. A bill to provide support for the development of middle school career exploration programs linked to ca-

reer and technical education programs of study; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

Mr. KAINE, Mr. President. Far too many students leave our Country's classrooms ill-equipped to keep up with the demands of the 21st century job market. Many enter high school and postsecondary education uninformed of the range of careers available to them. For our Country's continued success, it is essential that our young people have exposure to the vast range of available work and career options early in their academic careers so that, by the time they begin high school, they are more knowledgeable about future paths and what they need to do to pursue them.

Wherever I travel through Virginia I hear the same thing from business owners, manufacturers, and plant managers: there are good paying jobs out there, we just need to train our students with the skills to fill them. Middle school is a time for students to begin thinking about what they want to pursue in life. Helping them explore how their coursework could support those interests can make a valuable difference down the road.

Programs that focus on career and technical education (CTE) allow for students to explore their own strengths and passions, as well as how they match up with potential future careers. But limited funding for middle school CTE programming often requires students to wait until high school for access to this type of experience.

This is why I am pleased to introduce today the Middle School Technical Education Program Act, or Middle STEP Act. This bipartisan legislation creates a pilot program that allows for middle schools to partner with colleges and local businesses to develop and implement CTE exploration programs that give students access to apprenticeships or project-based learning opportunities. Additionally, middle school CTE programs funded through the Middle STEP Act would give students access to career guidance and academic counseling to help them understand the educational requirements for high-growth, in-demand career fields. Programs would assist students in drafting a high school graduation plan that demonstrates what courses prepare them for a given career. The programs must also provide a clear transition path from the introductory middle school program to a more narrow focus of CTE study in high school, and must be accessible to students from economically disadvantaged, urban and rural communities.

I believe this meaningful legislation can propel young students toward the careers of the future, and help to fill workforce shortages across the Commonwealth and the Nation. I strongly encourage my colleagues to consider this legislation to allow for students to have opportunities to explore potential career choices and pathways early on in their academic careers. Their futures depend on it.

## SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

## SENATE RESOLUTION 255—CONGRATULATING THE NATIONAL FEDERATION OF FEDERAL EMPLOYEES ON THE CELEBRATION OF THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF ITS FOUNDING AND RECOGNIZING THE VITAL CONTRIBUTIONS OF ITS MEMBERS TO THE UNITED STATES

Ms. HEITKAMP submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs:

## S. RES. 255

Whereas the National Federation of Federal Employees (referred to in this preamble as the "NFFE") was created in 1917 as the first union in the United States to exclusively represent civil service Federal employees;

Whereas the NFFE preserves, promotes, and improves the rights and working conditions of Federal employees and other professionals through all lawful means, including collective bargaining, legislative activities, and contributing to civic and charitable organizations;

Whereas the contributions of the NFFE are noted in history through a century of achievements for the Federal labor movement, including numerous reforms to workforce policy and working conditions;

Whereas NFFE members serve the United States by performing critical functions throughout Federal agencies, including the Department of Defense, the Department of Housing and Urban Development, the Department of Veterans Affairs, the Bureau of Land Management, the Forest Service, the National Park Service, the Federal Aviation Administration, the General Services Administration, the Indian Health Service, the Passport Service of the Bureau of Consular Affairs, and the Corps of Engineers;

Whereas, through a partnership with the International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers and the American Federation of Labor and Congress of Industrial Organizations, the NFFE promotes better working conditions and an improved quality of life for working families across the United States;

Whereas the NFFE represents more than 100,000 Federal employees; and

Whereas the NFFE continues to ensure that the voices of Federal civil servants are properly represented: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate congratulates and honors the National Federation of Federal Employees on the celebration of the 100th anniversary of its founding.

## SENATE RESOLUTION 256—RECOGNIZING HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH AND CELEBRATING THE HERITAGE AND CULTURE OF LATINOS IN THE UNITED STATES AND THE IMMENSE CONTRIBUTIONS OF LATINOS TO THE UNITED STATES

Mr. SCHUMER (for Mr. MENENDEZ (for himself, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. FRANKEN, Mr. REED, Mr. KAINE, Mr. BENNET, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. HELLER, Mr. NELSON, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. HEINRICH, Mr. WARNER, Mr. UDALL, and Mr. RUBIO)) submitted the

following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 256

Whereas from September 15, 2017, through October 15, 2017, the United States celebrates Hispanic Heritage Month;

Whereas the Bureau of the Census estimates the Hispanic population living in the continental United States at over 57,000,000, plus an additional 3,500,000 living in the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, making Hispanic Americans almost 18 percent of the total population of the United States and the largest racial or ethnic minority group in the United States;

Whereas, in 2016, there were close to 1,000,000 or more Latino residents in the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico and in each of the States of Arizona, California, Colorado, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Nevada, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, Texas, and Washington;

Whereas, between July 1, 2015, and July 1, 2016, Latinos grew the United States population by approximately 1,131,766 individuals, accounting for  $\frac{1}{2}$  of the total population growth during that period;

Whereas, by 2060, the Latino population in the United States is projected to grow to 119,000,000, and the Latino population will comprise more than 28.6 percent of the total United States population;

Whereas the Latino population in the United States is currently the third largest worldwide, exceeding the size of the population in every Latin American and Caribbean country except Mexico and Brazil;

Whereas, in 2016, there were more than 18,345,742 Latino children under the age of 18 in the United States, which represents approximately  $\frac{1}{3}$  of the total Latino population in the United States;

Whereas more than 1 in 4 public school students in the United States are Latino, and the ratio of Latino students is expected to rise to nearly 30 percent by 2027;

Whereas 19 percent of all college students between the ages of 18 and 24 are Latino, making Latinos the largest racial or ethnic minority group on college campuses in the United States, including 2-year community colleges and 4-year colleges and universities;

Whereas a record 12,700,000 Latinos voted in the 2016 Presidential election, representing a record 9.2 percent of the electorate in the United States;

Whereas the number of eligible Latino voters is expected to rise to 40,000,000 by 2030, accounting for 40 percent of the growth in the eligible electorate in the United States by 2032;

Whereas each year approximately 800,000 Latino citizens turn 18 years old and become eligible to vote, a number that could grow to 1,000,000 by 2030, adding a potential 18 million new Latino voters by 2032;

Whereas, in 2016, the annual purchasing power of Hispanic Americans was an estimated \$1,400,000,000,000, which is an amount greater than the economy of all except 17 countries in the world;

Whereas there are more than 4,700,000 Hispanic-owned firms in the United States, supporting millions of employees nationwide and contributing more than \$600,000,000,000 in revenue to the economy of the United States;

Whereas Hispanic-owned businesses represent the fastest-growing segment of small businesses in the United States, with Latino-owned businesses growing at more than 15 times the national rate;

Whereas, as of August 2017, more than 27,000,000 Latino workers represented 17 percent of the total civilian labor force of the United States, and the rate of Latino labor force participation is expected to grow to 28

percent by 2024, accounting for approximately 48 percent of the total labor force increase in the United States by that year;

Whereas, with 65.8 percent labor force participation, Latinos have the highest labor force participation rate of any racial or ethnic group, as compared to 62.9 percent labor force participation overall;

Whereas, as of 2016, there were 312,228 Latino elementary and middle school teachers, 92,344 Latino chief executives of businesses, 63,448 Latino lawyers, 62,599 Latino physicians and surgeons, and 11,109 Latino psychologists, who contribute to the United States through their professions;

Whereas Hispanic Americans serve in all branches of the Armed Forces and have fought bravely in every war in the history of the United States;

Whereas, as of July 31, 2016, more than 164,000 Hispanic active duty service members served with distinction in the Armed Forces;

Whereas, as of August 31, 2016, more than 284,000 Latinos have served in post-September 11, 2001, overseas contingency operations, including more than 8,500 Latinos serving as of September 2017 in operations in Iraq and Afghanistan;

Whereas, as of September 2015, at least 675 United States military fatalities in Iraq and Afghanistan were Hispanic;

Whereas an estimated 200,000 Hispanics were mobilized for World War I, and approximately 500,000 Hispanics served in World War II;

Whereas more than 80,000 Hispanics served in the Vietnam War, representing 5.5 percent of individuals who made the ultimate sacrifice for the United States in the conflict, even though Hispanics comprised only 4.5 percent of the population of the United States during the Vietnam War;

Whereas approximately 148,000 Hispanic soldiers served in the Korean War, including the 65th Infantry Regiment of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, known as the "Borinqueneers", the only active duty, segregated Latino military unit in United States history;

Whereas, as of 2015, there were more than 1,200,200 living Hispanic veterans of the Armed Forces, including 136,000 Latinas;

Whereas 61 Hispanic Americans have received the Congressional Medal of Honor, the highest award for valor in action against an enemy force bestowed on an individual serving in the Armed Forces;

Whereas Hispanic Americans are dedicated public servants, holding posts at the highest levels of the Government of the United States, including 1 seat on the Supreme Court of the United States, 4 seats in the Senate, 34 seats in the House of Representatives, and 1 seat in the Cabinet; and

Whereas Hispanic Americans harbor a deep commitment to family and community, an enduring work ethic, and a perseverance to succeed and contribute to society: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes the celebration of Hispanic Heritage Month from September 15, 2017, through October 15, 2017;

(2) esteems the integral role of Latinos and the manifold heritage of Latinos in the economy, culture, and identity of the United States; and

(3) urges the people of the United States to observe Hispanic Heritage Month with appropriate programs and activities that celebrate the contributions of Latinos to the United States.

SENATE RESOLUTION 257—DESIGNATING SEPTEMBER 16, 2017, AS "ISAAC M. WISE TEMPLE DAY"

Mr. BROWN (for himself and Mr. PORTMAN) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 257

Whereas 2017 marks the 175th anniversary of the incorporation of the congregation of the Isaac M. Wise Temple in Cincinnati, Ohio;

Whereas 2017 marks the 150th anniversary of the establishment of the current site for the Isaac M. Wise Temple, also known as the "Plum Street Temple";

Whereas Rabbi Isaac M. Wise led that congregation for nearly a half century, establishing the congregation as the cradle of American Reform Judaism and helping to make Cincinnati a center of Jewish life in the United States;

Whereas Rabbi Isaac M. Wise founded the Union of American Hebrew Congregations (now known as the "Union for Reform Judaism") in 1873 and the Central Conference of Reform Rabbis in 1889 to help lead the United States Jewish Reform movement;

Whereas Rabbi Isaac M. Wise founded the Hebrew Union College in Cincinnati in 1875, now the oldest rabbinical school in continuous existence in the United States; and

Whereas the Isaac M. Wise Plum Street Temple is listed on the National Register of Historic Places for the significant role that the Temple played in the history of Reform Judaism and for the unique Moorish architectural style of the Temple: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) designates September 16, 2017, as "Isaac M. Wise Temple Day"; and

(2) recognizes the importance of the Isaac M. Wise Temple in—

(A) United States Jewish history;

(B) establishing Cincinnati, Ohio, as a great center of Jewish life; and

(C) contributing to religious life in the United States.

SENATE RESOLUTION 258—DESIGNATING THE WEEK BEGINNING SEPTEMBER 10, 2017, AS "NATIONAL DIRECT SUPPORT PROFESSIONALS RECOGNITION WEEK"

Mr. CARDIN (for himself, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. BROWN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. PORTMAN, Mr. KING, Ms. WARREN, Mr. MENENDEZ, and Ms. KLOBUCHAR) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 258

Whereas direct support professionals, including direct care workers, personal assistants, personal attendants, in-home support workers, and paraprofessionals, are key to providing publicly funded, long-term support and services for millions of individuals with disabilities;

Whereas direct support professionals provide essential support to help keep individuals with disabilities connected to their families, friends, and communities so as to avoid more costly institutional care;

Whereas direct support professionals support individuals with disabilities by helping those individuals make person-centered choices that lead to meaningful, productive lives;